

TUESDAY 22ND SEPT.

My Dear Shirley,

Although I am starting this letter today, Tuesday it does not necessarily mean that I shall finish it today. In fact I won't finish it until the mail goes off & that is any time between now & next pancake day.

Now that I am at sea again I don't mind so much the thought of missing the advantages of civilization, but yesterday I felt positively browned off because I had to leave behind me so much that I enjoy. However I'll become absorbed in the work and so on in a day or so & won't care much about coming home again until we are actually on the way. Then I won't be able to get there quickly enough. It's always the same with me, I'm excited at the thought of going away but don't want to leave, quite happy once I'm away and only anxious to return when once on the way. But I can see me changing and never wanting to be away at all; and I think that by the time I have finished with the navy I'll be more than content to dig my roots in and stay put for the rest of my life. That at least is one advantage the navy has over civilian life for it enables one to save a lot more than otherwise, for the time when it comes to settle down. Only of course if it is ^{not} otherwise spent on beer, gambling, beer, bad women, beer and so on.

Well yesterday we successfully cleared the Heads without ramming anything and an hour later, about 1 P to be precise the first aircraft landed on. There was only one accident & that was a minor one. It briefly caught the last wire

because he was coming in a bit fast he hit the second barrier, landing the tip of the prop.

Elche went forward two hours last night, the idea being that flying will commence in the early hours of the morning when air turbulence is at a minimum & thus flying conditions best. So we now turn in at 8-9 P.M. E.S.T. and rise at 4.30 A.M. E.S.T. Talk about ideal conditions for being healthy, wealthy and something!

It looks now as though we will return to Sydney on Saturday 10th Oct. but we won't get ashore till late P.M. But I'll be off Sunday 11th for sure (crossed fingers). That being the case would you like to go somewhere for the day with me, say to the Zoo or Alice Springs or something?

WEDNESDAY 23rd Mail goes off tomorrow & closes on board at 0730 so I'll finish this off & get it away.

The weather is quite warm now, tomorrow we work in shorts, and before long I'll be sleeping in my tropical "pyjamas". Meals have been very good to date and I seem to be settling in nicely.

Well dear old thing I'll close now & buzz off as it is way past bed time. Bye for now

George x